

less. The Bond Market Price Competition Act of 1999 is an important piece of legislation that will preserve this country's place as a leader of bond market transaction in the international marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTPATIENT PRESERVATION ACT

#### HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was (and still am) a proud supporter of the Balanced Budget Act and its attempts to bring about greater fiscal discipline to save Medicare from bankruptcy. However, when we passed this bill, we did so with the understanding that Medicare services to seniors would not be harmed.

Sadly, the current form of the prospective payment system (PPS) for hospital outpatient services such as surgery, radiology, clinical services, emergency room care, chemotherapy, and psychotherapy makes drastic cuts in payments so that many hospitals may be forced to limit or discontinue outpatient services that patients depend on. Initial projections show that when the PPS is fully implemented, some hospitals stand to lose between 40 and 50 percent of their revenue. This could have a devastating effect on the availability of certain services. For many individuals, outpatient care is a safer, more convenient, and less costly alternative to being admitted overnight to a hospital for a minor procedure. I do not want to see patients' choice of health services and care settings limited.

Today, I am introducing the Hospital Outpatient Preservation Act. This legislation will put a limit on the Medicare payment reductions hospitals receive under the outpatient PPS for the first three years it is in place. This bill will allow hospitals to gradually reorganize their budgets and operational structures in order to smoothly transition to the new payment system without having to eliminate services. It is my intention that this bill will preserve the intent of the Balanced Budget Act to enforce fiscal responsibility in the Medicare system, while preventing any negative consequences that drastic revenue reductions would have on hospitals and their patients.

#### IN HONOR OF CELESTICA OF COLORADO

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Celestica, a Ft. Collins company determined to provide total customer satisfaction, superior value, quality, and technological leadership through designing electronic memory solutions and manufacturing printed circuit boards. This prosperous corporation has not only benefited itself, but its community as well. Celestica currently employs 1,000 Colorado citizens, and has grown strong enough to add 500 new jobs to the Ft. Collins

area. Celestica workers provide jobs in nine countries and employment opportunities for over 15,000 worldwide while generating economic growth and health benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Celestica is successful because it strives to meet its customers' needs, guarantee long-term value and have innovative ideas for products. For this reason, it is obvious why Celestica is the third-largest electronics manufacturing company in the world.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Ms. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187, the Souder amendment—to "prohibit any fiscal year 2000 funding for military operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### HONORING JOSHUA VANDIVER

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Joshua Vandiver of Swink, Colorado, a student at Swink Junior-Senior High School. He has received an outstanding recognition of being a Presidential Scholar. I am pleased to take a moment and extend Joshua congratulations for his phenomenal academic prowess, artistic success, scholarship, leadership, and involvement in school and community. He possesses the key to success because the attributes of his personality, hard work and perseverance are strong and long lasting. With these skills Joshua Vandiver will prosper in the future.

#### HONORING SYLVIA LASK

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Lask, a tireless advocate for her community and a woman who has worked with me for all of my elected life, is celebrating her 65th birthday, an occasion to celebrate her and all the wonderful things she has done. She has worked with me from my start in the New York State Assembly, but even more, she has been a great friend. She developed a specialty in the area of mental health while at my Assembly office and her dedication led her to join me in late night visits to State psychiatric hospitals to check on the care of the patients. Currently she is Chair of the New York State Board of Visitors of Psychiatric Hospitals and is a member of the Board of Bronx Municipal Hospital. She also led her building in the Co-op City rent strike. Her caring and concern have won

her the affection and appreciation of virtually everyone she has come in contact with. She is also a State Committeewoman for the 82nd A.D. She is a committed Zionist and Jewish causes are her passion. She is an ardent supporter of the Kibbutz movement. She dearly loves her two children, Marc and Vicki. When I picture Sylvia in my mind I see her dancing around a campfire at a Kibbutz. She is a very dear friend and I join all in wishing her a very special birthday.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 189, the Skelton amendment—"prohibiting any funding for combat or peacekeeping operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," I was absent for the above-referenced vote because I was in North Carolina attending the funeral services for the father of my District Office Director. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### HONORING DONNA WHEELER TEACHER

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the work of an extraordinary teacher from the Fourth District of Colorado, Ms. Donna Wheeler. Ms. Wheeler teaches at Swink Junior-Senior High School in Swink, CO. Teachers provide one of the most valuable services to society educating students. By promoting integrity, knowledge, proficiency, and wholehearted interest in her students, Ms. Wheeler has proven her ability as an educator. Caring and talented teachers are of immense worth in our society and proficient teachers are the backbone of the Republic. It takes a very dedicated person to encourage children. Ms. Wheeler has set an example each of us can follow to nurture our nation's youth in becoming responsible adults. I congratulate Ms. Wheeler.

#### HONORING MOUNT VERNON HEIGHTS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year, the good parishioners of the Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church celebrate the church's 100th anniversary. The history of the church is actually longer when we remember that it was in 1892 that its meetings began in the Garden Avenue School. The church became fully organized in 1896 with the Rev. F.B. Kellogg named pastor of the new church. By the following year the congregation had